THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a) The amount of subsidy provided by Government of India to the FCI and to the State Governments for distribution of foodgrains under decentralized procurement scheme during the last three years is as under:

(*Rs. in crore*)

	FCI	State Govt.	Total
1999-2000	8856.72	343.28	9200.00
2000-2001	11462.00	548.00	12010.00
2001-2002	16724.00	770.00	17494.00

(b) Food subsidy is paid for covering the gap between the economic cost of foodgrains and the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of the foodgrains distributed. FCI is also reimbursed the cost of carrying buffer stocks.

(c) and (d) Farmers are paid the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for the grains procured from them. Procurement operation by Government agencies ensure that there is no distress sale of foodgrains by the farmers.

Prices of Edible Oils

2379. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of all the edible oils have considerably risen, recenly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to lessen the burden on consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The price-rise in wholesale prices of major edible oils during the last six months are mentioned below:

(Price in Rs. per quintal)

Type of Oil	Price as on 30.1.02	Price as on 30.7.02	% variation over 30.1.02
Mustard Oil	2910	3700	+27.15
Groundnut Oil	3630	4470	+23.15
Soyabean Oil	3040	3550	+16.78
Sunflower Oil	4000	4700	+17.50
Sesame Oil	3250	3750	+15.38
Cottonseed Oil	3000	3750	+25.00
Coconut Oil	3650	4600	+26.03
Rice Bran Oil	2450	3150	+28.57
Vanaspati (15 litres pack)	515	625	+21.36

(b) Price rise in the international market, decline in production of domestic oilseeds, increase in the tariff value of Palm Oil products etc. are some of the reasons for rise in the prices of edible oils.

(c) Some of the measures taken/proposed to lessen the burden on consumers are:—

(i) Import of edible oils has been allowed on OGL.

(ii) the import duty structure of edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

(iii) Government is keeping a watch on the prices and availability situation of edible oils in the country.

Wastage of foodgrains during transportation

2380. SHRI RANGANATH MISRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lot of foodgrains is wasted while transferring it from farms to godowns or from godowns to rail or road dispatch centres;